



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the author has drawn for the purpose of throwing light on conditions otherwise obscure or for illustration of a point already established. The result is that the volume not only presents a complete and full account of the subject treated but it presents it in exceedingly attractive and readable form. It fills in the outline of the earlier volume with a fulness of detail and with a faithfulness of presentation that leave nothing to be desired—unless there be regret that in the fulness of detail the clearness and definiteness of generalization which characterized the earlier volume have been to a certain extent lost. A little attention to summary here and there would have been helpful, but perhaps the greater caution that has come with advancing years and the lessened disposition to put a matter in sharp outline or without modification have been responsible for what seem to be less clearly defined conclusions in the new volume.

The appendices have been similarly expanded, excised, and brought down to date. A feature is the annotated "Chronological List of Agricultural Writers down to 1700," which appears in a somewhat changed and considerably enlarged and improved form in the new volume.

A double-column index covering some 35 pages adds greatly to the usefulness of the book.

JOHN G. THOMPSON

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Increasing Home Efficiency. By MARTHA B. and ROBERT W. BRUÈRE. New York: Macmillan, 1912. 8vo, pp. 318. \$1.50 net.

This book, composed essentially of a collection of articles published during the last two or three years in the *Outlook*, *Harper's*, and several other magazines, is in the main an argument for more scientific expenditure of the middle-class family income, with a view to increasing the social efficiency of the family. The budgets of 76 middle-class families have been collected and are analyzed in the book in a way intended to bring out the most effective combination of the various items included in the budget. To be socially efficient the home "must keep the members of the family in a state of body and mind and happiness that will make it possible for them to work at their highest capacity for the greatest number of years; it must give to the community children that are well fitted for citizenship and equipped to push civilization along;

and it must turn out this product on an economical expenditure, not of money alone, but in brain and muscle as well."

The relegation to the factory and the shop of everything that can be done outside of the home is strongly urged. For such tasks as must be performed within the walls of the home labor-saving devices rather than the employment of servants are advocated (p. 101). With a view to making possible the freer use of these, women must interest themselves in politics and in this way control factories and shops and especially public-service corporations, all of which become a part of home affairs to an increasing degree (pp. 102 ff.). The co-operative market and the use of the market-basket by the housewife are frowned upon as not worth the trouble and time involved in their operation and use. Domestic science should be taught in our schools; but we must not rely on the knowledge of the individual for protecting himself against impure or inferior goods. Housekeeping can and should be made a "culture-study" (p. 173). Two chapters are devoted respectively to "The Cost of Children," and "Launching the Child." The latter is in the main an argument for scientific study of supply and demand in the different lines or professions open to the young person about to be "launched," with a view to the avoidance of overcrowding in any given line. "A man's choice of profession," we are told, "is not his own business. It is a social question" (p. 262). Just how society is to intervene and direct him we are not informed.

A chapter on "Savings and Efficiency" argues that, in general, saving by the middle class is accomplished at a sacrifice that outweighs the advantage derived. "And how this middle class does try to save!" (p. 281). "And the remedy for this evil is a universal system of scientifically administered insurance against sickness, unemployment, and old age." The conclusions of the authors are perhaps best summed up in the sentence: "What we need most today is the domestication of business and the socialization of the home" (p. 292).

In style, the book, as might be expected from what was said in the opening sentence of this review, is of the type which aims at attracting attention rather than at scientific accuracy. That it contains many excellent suggestions in a field for thought too long neglected cannot be denied. That one is wise in an attempt of this kind to limit one's study and suggestions to a certain part of the field, such as the middle class, with incomes ranging from \$1,000 to upward of \$15,000, as is here done, will also be readily admitted. But it appears little short of absurdity to take the position that it is futile to study, with a view to

increasing social efficiency, the budgets of families whose incomes fall below \$1,000 or \$1,200—"the financial minimum for social efficiency" (p. 29)—"because we are convinced that no supplemental expenditure of brain and muscle can enable them to rise to the level of social efficiency" (p. 27). It is well enough to argue that no family should have less than \$1,200 as an annual income under present standards and prices. It should have that, and as much more as social and economic progress can make possible. But in the face of the fact that the majority do not have it and there is no hope of any sudden or immediate transformation which will raise the minimum for the worthy and industrious family to this figure, is it not wiser to recognize that "social efficiency" and even "bare decency" are relative matters, more like our concept of civilization itself than like a Promised Land reached by crossing an arbitrary boundary line? Following out the authors' analogy of factory efficiency (p. 25), this is not something which remains long at zero and then at a given point jumps to 100 per cent.

In regard to savings it would seem that the book errs in at least two respects. In the first place the instinct or the tendency to save among the middle class cannot be estimated from a study of the few who are in position to submit family budgets. These would naturally constitute among their class the element which plans ahead; and saving is naturally a part of this plan. Then again the importance of saving, both from a social and individual standpoint, is underestimated. Certainly such a statement as the one on p. 282 is misleading, which declares that the average savings for the clerks whose budgets are here considered, \$381.02, would if continued for 20 years amount to only \$7,620.40, "which at the high rate of 6 per cent would provide them with an income of \$457.22." Either the interest on these savings will have been effectively supplementing the family income long before the period is up, or else this saving, if allowed to accumulate at the assumed rate, will at the end of the period amount to nearly twice the figures given, and at the given rate yield an annual income of about \$841. Several other cases of looseness in argument could be pointed out which space does not permit.

In general the book is interesting and has in it much that is not only valuable but strikingly original.

V. N. VALGREN

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO